

14 February 1967

BACKSTOPPER FOR BRIEFINGSNORTH VIETNAMESE SHIPMENTS DURING TRUCE

- I. By our preliminary calculations, the North Vietnamese probably moved 10,000 to 15,000 tons of supplies south toward their troops near and in Vietnam during the Lunar New Year truce.
- A. That would be 100 to 150 "division-days" of supplies.
- II. The number of coastal ships sighted between the 17th and 19th parallels--off the southernmost part of North Vietnam--has averaged about 30 a day over the past four months. This reflects the effective work of aircraft and destroyers in attacking this supply line.
- A. But the 30 sightings a day jumped to 254 a day during the Christmas standdown, and 393 a day during this latest Tet truce.
- B. During the 96-hour Lunar New Year truce, reconnaissance sighted a total of 972 ships headed south. With an average capacity of 10 tons, that amounts to almost 10,000 tons of supplies.

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Logistics

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III. Truck sighting in the southern part of North Vietnam also went sky-high during the latest truce, from a normal 25 a day to more than 550 a day.

[A. I am not implying that normally truck movement is limited to 25 a day----We just don't see them, because they move by night.]

B. Some of the sightings were probably duplicates, and many of them were carrying the same cargo inland that we had already observed in coastal shipping.

C. I think we can conservatively estimate, however, that between the ships and the trucks the Communists moved 10,000 to 15,000 tons of supplies down to the South Vietnamese border, or into the pipeline in Laos, during the four days of the Lunar New Year truce.

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